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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ADJUTANT GENERAL

OF THE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

For the Year 1858.

TRENTON, N. J.

TRENTON, N. J.:

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ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S REPORT.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
Trenton, N. J., Dec. 31, 1858. }

To his Excellency, WILLIAM A. NEWELL, Governor, Commander-in-Chief, &c., &c., &c.

SIR:—I beg leave to submit the following report:

The military organization of the State has been increased during the past year, by the formation of twelve companies, making the number of companies at present organized, one hundred and fifty-seven.

The number of men liable to do military duty, as returned under the act approved March 17, 1852, is eighty-one thousand nine hundred and eighty-five.

Great improvement has taken place in several of the brigades, in the organization of the different companies and regiments, in the character of officers and men, in discipline, appearance, deportment, and in that essential quality, subordination.

In one brigade, a new regiment has been formed, and in other brigades, a re-organization has taken place. The spirit which has been manifested during the past year, if continued, will place the militia of New Jersey in a position which will compare favorably with any similar troops elsewhere.

The annual returns of brigade inspection have not been made to this office with that punctuality which the law would seem to require. Abstracts have been made from those received, and will be found annexed to this report.

It being a part of the duty of the Adjutant-General to report "such improvements as he may think necessary to advance the discipline and benefit the militia." I beg leave to submit the following suggestions:

The subject of an uniform dress for the different brigades, has

engaged much attention, and in two brigades, the different companies now appear in a brigade dress, of a plain, neat and substantial character. Experience continues to demonstrate the necessity of adopting some uniform dress for each brigade in the State. No amount of proficiency can be obtained without it, whenever equalization of company fronts is essential, as in battalion movements. Fancy names, as well as dresses, should be abandoned as soon as practicable.

While in certain brigades great attention has been paid to the matter of drill, yet in the majority, regular and systematic drills are much needed. Weekly drills, occasional battalion drills, both indoor and on the field, and stated meetings of officers for instruction, would certainly promote this object, and some general regulations on the subject might be adopted to advantage.

The fact that two systems of tactics are at present in use in the U. S. army, demands that a uniform system should be adopted for the use of the militia in this State. The difference of command incident to the adoption of Maynard's Primer, renders it highly expedient that some action in this matter should be had immediately. At present, each commandant may adopt as much of one system, and as little of the other, as suits his own peculiar views: and in case of a division coming together, the General-in-Chief finds his commands understood differently, and each subdivision capable of manœuvring only independent of the other.

Experience also demonstrates the necessity which exists, that greater authority should be given, in all cases, to superiors, to enforce existing laws, their own commands and instructions.

The brigade boards should be rigidly kept up throughout the State.

Every proper encouragement should be given to increase the uniform companies, and perhaps it would be well to establish yearly brigade encampments, under a system somewhat similar to that in use in the New England States.

The necessity of a thorough military organization in the populous cities of the State, and the insufficiency of the general militia law, has rendered it necessary that certain brigades should be organized under special acts. This has led to great inconvenience. A conflict of opinion often exists as to the construction of the statutes, which is destructive to good order and discipline.

The act of 1852, requires an enumeration of all persons liable to perform military duty, to secure to the State the quota of arms to which she is entitled. Yet by act of Congress, approved March 3d, 1855, the distribution of arms for the different States, is based upon the respective representation in Congress, and not as heretofore on the muster rolls.

The existing militia law authorizes three commissioned officers to every company—namely, Captain, Lieutenant and Ensign. Yet on account of the re-organization of the companies, it has become necessary, and is customary, to commission a Captain and two Lieutenants.

Again, by special act, some brigades are entitled in company elections, to elect three Lieutenants in companies of all arms; while others are only entitled to elect three Lieutenants in rifle companies.

These subjects, in my opinion, need immediate attention, but they are only some of the many defects in our present militia system. What is the best remedy, I am not prepared to say, but feel satisfied, that a more general law regulating the militia—special acts for the different brigades as they may become necessary, together with a system of general regulations and tactics, would tend very much to relieve the difficulty. For this purpose, I recommend that the Commander-in-Chief appoint a board of officers to examine and review this whole subject, and report at an early day.

Respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

R. F. STOCKTON, JR.,

Adjutant-General N. J. M.

Abstract from Returns of Brigade Inspectors mentioned in the foregoing Report:

HUNTERDON BRIGADE—BRIG. GEN. SAMUEL LILLY.

Rank and file, present inspected 97; absent 42; total, 139. 5 captains, 10 lieutenants, 13 sergeants, 15 corporals, 10 drummers, 5 fifers, 1 bugler.

24 swords, 121 muskets, 121 bayonets, 121 cartridge boxes, 121 belts.

1 colonel, 1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 major, 1 brigade major, 1 brigade pay-master, 1 brigade quarter master, 1 brigade surgeon, 1 judge advocate.

Arms all in perfect order.

CAMDEN BRIGADE—BRIG. GEN. ISAAC W. MICKLE.

Rank and file, present inspected, 40. 2 captains, 5 lieutenants, 8 sergeants, 8 corporals.

7 swords, 100 muskets, 100 bayonets, 100 iron ramrods, 100 cartridge boxes.

1 colonel, 1 lieut.-colonel, 1 major, 1 adjutant, 1 brigade major, 1 brigade pay-master, 1 brigade quarter-master, 1 brigade surgeon, 1 brigade judge advocate.

Arms all in good order.

NEWARK BRIGADE—BRIG. GEN. THEODORE RUNYON.

Rank and file, non-commissioned officers and musicians, 540; field and staff officers, 18; company officers, 41.

Swords, 35; muskets, (percussion,) 310; muskets, (flint,) 49; bayonets, 320; iron ramrods, 566; rifles, (percussion,) 318; gun slings, 243; cap pouches, 242; flasks, 90; cartridge boxes, 280; artillery swords, 40; artillery hangers 40; six pounder cannon, 3; setts harness, 2.

The arms of the First Regiment and City Battalion are in good condition.

The rifles of the Second Regiment are in a bad condition, and represented to be dangerous to use in firing.

BERGEN BRIGADE—BRIG. GEN. ANDREW H. HOPPER.

A return has been received at this office, purporting to be a return of the Bergen Brigade, commanded by Brig. Gen. Andrew H. Hopper, signed by Garret S. Demarest, Brigade Major; but no portion of the Brigade appears by the return to have been inspected, except "The Independent Battalion of the county of Bergen," established by an act of the Legislature, approved March 11, 1858. The Battalion consists of three companies, viz: Haekensack Continentals, Haekensack Rifles, and National Guards. The return is as follows:

1 colonel, 1 adjutant, 1 pay-master, 1 quarter master, 1 surgeon, 1 sergeant major, 1 captain, 6 lieutenants, 7 sergeants, 2 corporals, 37 rank and file present, 22 do. absent.

7 swords, 46 muskets, 46 bayonets, 46 iron ramrods, 46 cartridge boxes.

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